

MANUFACTURING EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP

Success Stories from the Field

Vermont Pure Holdings Ltd.

Vermont Manufacturing Extension Center

Vermont Pure Springs Improves Supplier Sourcing

Client Profile:

Vermont Pure Springs, located in Randolph, Vermont, bottles spring water under its own name brand as well as for private labels. Founded in 1990, the company presently employs 70 people.

Situation:

Vermont Pure Springs processes and packages its products in a vast array of bottle sizes with different caps and labels. The labeling system is such an integral part of the continuous production line that any problems with that process step can bring the rest of the line to a halt. Vermont Pure Springs asked the Vermont Manufacturing Extension Center (VMEC), a NIST MEP network affiliate, for ideas to prevent line problems associated with the labeling process.

Solution:

VMEC recommended a project aimed at reducing line set-up and downtime. After videotaping normal operations on the line, VMEC analyzed its processes and found that 50 percent of machine downtime could be attributed to film wrapping entanglements. After further analysis, VMEC worked with Vermont Pure Springs and its film supplier to identify the critical material properties. VMEC also helped to identify critical process control specifications which would guarantee a consistent film performance.

The initial film supplier could not deliver a product consistent with the specifications developed by VMEC and Vermont Pure Springs. Using the same material specifications, VMEC helped Vermont Pure Springs identify a new film manufacturer and printer. The company is now buying a high-quality, high-performance product that eliminates film entanglements at no additional cost.

Results:

Selected a new supplier of high-performance packing material.
Improved machine downtime by 50 percent.
Increased line capacity by 30 to 40 percent.
Eliminated costs associated with machine downtime.

Testimonial:

www.mep.nist.gov



NIST is an agency of the U.S. Commerce Department's Technology Administration

MANUFACTURING EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP

Success Stories from the Field

“We are constantly looking for ways to improve our processes and improve business operations. The team at the Vermont Manufacturing Extension Center has contributed significantly to helping us identify cost-effective methods and processes to improve our business.”

Dave Bullis, Plant Manager